

Message Text

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ACTION SEC-01

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PASS SEC FOR KRAUT AND CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, IT
SUBJ: SEC ASSISTANCE TO ITALY'S CONSOB

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FROM CONSOB (THE NEWLY-FORMED ITALIAN COMMISSION FOR THE STOCK EXCHANGE) TO SEND TWO OF ITS COMMISSIONERS TO THE SEC TO STUDY THE US SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION OF STOCK EXCHANGES. THE PROPOSED TIMING OF THE VISIT IS THE SECOND HALF OF MARCH.

2. THE TWO COMMISSIONERS INVOLVED ARE FRANCESCO MASERA AND RENATO SQUILLANTE.

3. MASERA, AN ECONOMIST WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER AT THE BANK OF ITALY, WOULD LIKE TO DEEPEN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE US FINANCIAL SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY ITS ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS, SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION AND ELABORATION OF FINANCIAL DATA, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE STOCK EXCHANGES. THE SPECIFICS MENTIONED ARE: (A) ACTIVITIES OF BROKERS, DEALERS AND SPECIALISTS; (B) PROTECTION OF INVESTORS AGAINST POSSIBLE UNLAWFUL TRANSACTIONS BY INTERMEDIARIES; AND (C) UNDERSTANDING OF OPERATIONS OF THE NASDAQ.

4. SQUILLANTE, A LAWYER, IS INTERESTED IN: (A) ORGANIZATION OF SEC; (B) HOW ITS AUTONOMOUS NATURE IS ASSURED IN PRACTICE,
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INCLUDING LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES; AND (C) ITS PUBLIC ASPECTS.

5. SQUILLANTE HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MEETING WITH: (A) THE DIVISION OF CORPORATE REGULATIONS; (B) THE DIVISION OF OPINION WRITING; AND (C) ONE OR MORE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AS WELL AS WITH THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NEW YORK STOCK

EXCHANGE.

6. THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE REQUESTED THAT THEY BE SCHEDULED SEPARATELY SINCE THEIR INTERESTS ARE DIFFERENT AND SINCE THEY CANNOT BOTH BE AWAY FROM ROME AT THE SAME TIME.

7. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT MASERA'S ENGLISH IS SUFFICIENTLY GOOD BUT THAT SQUILLANTE WILL REQUIRE AN INTERPRETER (HE HAS SOME KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH). BY SEPTTEL, EMBASSY WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN AN ESCORT-INTERPRETER FROM STATE DEPARTMENT. SINCE APPROVAL IS UNCERTAIN, DOES SEC HAVE INTERPRETER AVAILABLE?

8. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER SEC CAN RECEIVE COMMISSIONERS AS REQUESTED. GARDNER

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